



## Message from the President

How quickly the year seems to have passed, at least to date. Our September meeting focused on polytepals (previously referred to as multitepals), with some nice plants of these (about 10) and other forms. Some photos taken that evening, as well as other photos of polytepals submitted by Laurens Rijke, who has a special collection of polytepals grown from Nakamura seed, can be found on the MCG website (<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery.html>). On the same night, George Simmler, our MCG photographer, also introduced us to some aspects relating to camera use and photographing *Clivia*. This is an important topic for some members and I'm sure that we will need a follow-up session in the future.

Rae Begg led a very informative presentation on pests and diseases at the October meeting, illustrating her talk with samples of pests and also displaying some of the treatments which are available. Some notes are included in this newsletter. We were especially grateful to Terry Edwards for his generous donation for the raffle of one of his compact *C. miniata* 'Florid White Lips'. The lucky winner was Yvonne Hargraves whose smile revealed her surprise and pleasure. Thanks also to the seven members who brought plants for the display. Having a good display of plants at each meeting definitely contributes to the success of the evening.

The sharing of knowledge and experiences is a valuable part of meeting as a group. At the October meeting Yvonne asked participants for a method of rigging up the Clivia Colour Chart II when taking photos but is still awaiting a solution. Erika van de Spuy brought a large pot planted with three *Clivia* and asked for advice on evaluating her own plants, in order to decide which ones to keep. She was advised to keep everything that she likes. This strategy is fine in principle, but sometimes space does become an issue, doesn't it.

At the beginning of October, the MCG mounted a small display stand at the ABC Gardening Australia Expo over the three-day period (see p.2). We had appealed for 12 volunteers to man the tables for one-half day at a time but did not meet this target, so some people had to double up on their shift. Our special thanks go to those who assisted: Carol Aalbers, Lisa Fox, Brenda Girdlestone, Yvonne Hargraves, Di Matthews, John Ritchie, George and Judy Simmler, and Erika van de Spuy. The MCG is also grateful to Erika for recently introducing *Clivia* at a local garden club function.

Members at the October meeting voted to hold a social evening in the regular hall on 20 November, similar to last year. Treats in the form of *Clivia* and seed await those who attend, so even if it your first MCG meeting, do feel welcome to come. We thank Eddie Pang (Melbourne) and Wynand Malan (South Africa) for their generous donations of seed, and Jeanne Marten for seedlings, all of which will be distributed at the final function. If any country member is unable to make it to the meeting but would like 20 complimentary South African mixed *C. miniata* seed, please send a self-addressed padded bag (PO no. 1 size) with \$1.10 in stamps to the MCG (PO Box 811, Lilydale, Vic 3140) by Thursday 19 November.

Members of the committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> October and started to plan what we consider to be an exciting program for 2010. Some of the main topics will cover *Clivia* culture for pots and the garden, fertilizers, peaches, and yellows/creams. John Bannenberg has agreed to present a continuation of his introduction of the various species, and mid-year we look forward to a special presentation entitled "Whither?" from Dr Keith Hammett, a leading *Clivia* breeder and grower from New Zealand. Sometime during the year we also look forward to Eddie Pang introducing us to more Chinese *Clivia*. Some of the shorter topics planned will cover divisions, seed sowing, and crossing interspecifics with other interspecifics. As before, we are trying to plan for the needs of those who are new or relatively new to growing *Clivia*, as well as to those long-term growers who wish to expand their advanced knowledge.

We will continue to meet in 2010 on the third Friday evening of the month as follows: **19 February, 16 April, 18 June, 20 August, 17 September** (note this will also be the third week), **15 October** and tentatively also **19 November**. An important event in 2010 will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held in conjunction with the April meeting. Details on the procedures to be followed will be distributed at a later date.

The committee looks forward to the final social evening on 20 November and hopes to see many of you present.

Helen Marriott



## Member's Introduction

### JOHN RITCHIE

*How long have you been interested in clivias?*

I have known what they are for years but only became interested one year ago when I become a member.



*How did you first become interested in clivia?*

I came to a meeting here with Ros Simmons who met Reg at Benalla. He told her about the meeting and we came together.

*How has your interest developed since you started?*

It certainly has. I won the raffle and since then, I have about 8 seedlings - 1, 2 and 3 year olds. The young ones I raised myself.

*Do you have a favourite?*

Not really. They are all beautiful. I think I like red best and then, open pastels.

*Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?*

My sister has them growing in her garden, in the shade below a verandah. I remember as a child, neighbours in Sydney had them.

*Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?*

No. I only have miniata.

*Do you have clivia in pots, in the ground or both?*

In pots only.

*What are your hopes for the future clivia-wise?*

Since becoming a member, I see them more often. There are more out there than I had imagined. I would love to have a shade-house full.

*Do you have any other comments?*

With people's raised consciousness of water, it's good to find a drought tolerant plant.

### CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Friday 20th November 2009 - 7.00 pm  
Uniting Church,  
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,  
Burwood

Surnames A - M - Bring sweets  
Surnames N - Z Bring savouries  
No alcohol permitted

### MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP TURNS ONE YEAR OLD!

The MCG was officially one year old on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009. We now have over 90 members and this number is still increasing.

What have we done in 2009?

- Conducted six successful meetings which have been informative and interesting,
- Distributed six newsletters with plenty of articles and news,
- Held a stall at the ABC Expo,
- Offered our members quality seed from top growers,
- Made a lot of friends and contacts,
- Launched a website.

Since January 2009, the website has been visited by around 1700 people from 34 different countries. The most popular page has been the gallery. If you have not visited this page, check out the photographs from meetings and other specialty photographs.

<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au> and click on the gallery link.

Thank you to all members for supporting the MCG in 2009. We look forward to your continued support in 2010.

## ABC Expo - Di Mathews

The Melbourne Clivia Group hosted a stall at the recent ABC Gardening Expo at the Caulfield Racecourse.

This stall was for display purposes only, with no plants for sale, and was deemed a great success by all who attended.

The organisation running the Expo placed fairly strict criteria, with only a limited space, but that space was maximised with a display of individual *Clivia* flowers at the front of the display on the table. Flowering plants were placed each side of the display table, and a selection of beautiful photographs was displayed on the back wall. Thanks to Helen Marriott for the excellent setup of the display.



Members of the general public were keen to learn more about *Clivia* and also the MCG. Many people were particularly interested in observing how to peel the berries to obtain the seeds, and asked lots of questions about their culture in general. People were also fascinated at the great variety of flower shapes and colours available, and were keen to purchase their own *Clivia* as soon as possible.

There appears to be a growing interest in these wonderful plants, and it is this interest that the MCG is trying to capture and use to promote the cultivation of *Clivia*.

Many thanks to all who helped to man the stall, and who gave generously of their time and knowledge.



## Feature Flower

This beautiful peach is 'My Fair Lady' (registration pending) and is an offset bred by Ian Anderson of 'Anderson's Peach' X 'Elizabeth'. Yvonne Hargraves is the proud owner and displayed this flower at our October meeting. This year 'My Fair Lady' has been pollinated with pollen from a 'Cameron Peach', 'Victorian Peach', Conway's 'Helen' and selfed.



### BOX AD

A box ad will cost \$5 per issue  
or \$20 for one year of  
advertising (6 issues)

Contact us to book your space.

### Subscribe to the Yahoo Clivia Enthusiasts Group

Send an email to [clivia-enthusiast-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:clivia-enthusiast-subscribe@yahogroups.com). You will then be subscribed to receive posts in your inbox to questions, answers and news regarding clivia.

### The Clivia Forum - Global Clivia Enthusiast Forum

<http://www.cliviaforum.co.za>

A great resource for asking questions and chatting to other clivia enthusiasts.

## Membership Renewals

**2010 Membership Renewals are now being accepted by the following methods:**

### BANK

**Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.**

**National Bank**

**BSB 083 657**

**Acc. 82974 5477**

**(Please add your first initial and surname as the reference)**

### AT CHRISTMAS MEETING

Pay by cash or cheque at the Christmas get-together on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

### POSTAL

Send cheque or money order to

**Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.**

**PO Box 811**

**Lilydale, VIC 3140**

**Membership Fees remain at:**

**\$15 per individual**

**\$10 per additional family member**

**If you joined the MCG after the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009, your membership is covered for 2010.**



## Events & Contacts

**20 Nov 2009 - Christmas Get-together**  
Uniting Church, Burwood, 7pm

**19 Feb 2010 - General Meeting**  
Culture & Fungi - Di Mathews  
Division - Rae Begg

**16 Apr 2010 - Annual General Meeting**  
Species continued - John Bannenberg

**18 Jun 2010 - General Meeting**  
Presentation - Dr Keith Hammett

**20 Aug 2010 - General Meeting**  
Fertilising - Di Mathews  
Interspecific x Interspecific

**17 Sep 2010 - General Meeting**  
Peaches - Lisa Fox  
Seeds: Group Discussion

**15 Oct 2010 - General Meeting**  
Creams/Yellows - Helen Marriott &  
Laurens Rike

**15 Nov 2010 - Christmas Get-together**

### CONTACTS

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*Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue - 10 Jan 2010.*

### OUR ADDRESS

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

PO Box 811,

Lilydale, VIC 3140

[www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au](http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au)  
[secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au)



## Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers – Di Mathews

The annual Carnival of Flowers at Toowoomba was again a great success, and attracted a huge number of people to this delightful and historic city.



Toowoomba is now Australia's largest inland regional city, with a population of over 90,000 people, and is situated about 127 km west of Brisbane, at the edge of the Great Dividing Range escarpment 700 metres above sea-level. Toowoomba dates back to 1827 when an English explorer named Allan Cunningham discovered a vast area of rich farming land, which he named the 'Darling Downs' after the then Governor of New South Wales, Sir Ralph Darling. One of the first settlements on the Downs was established in 1842, but a drought in 1850 saw many people settle a few miles to the north-east, to an area named 'The Swamp' and one of these was Thomas Alford, who built a house and established a shop, which he named Toowoomba, which became the area's eventual name. It is widely accepted that the name Toowoomba is most likely derived from a pronunciation of the Aboriginal word for "The Swamp". Toowoomba is one of the few places in Queensland that enjoys four distinct seasons, and it is built on a rich volcanic soil, with 150 public parks, and beautiful

tree-lined streets. Jacaranda, camphor laurel, and Plane trees line many of Toowoomba's wide streets.



Lisa Fox and Di Mathews from the Melbourne Clivia Group travelled to Toowoomba on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, and spent the next two days in and around Toowoomba, enjoying the hospitality of the people and the magnificent displays of *Clivia* that were proudly presented. The first display that was visited was the Toowoomba Clivia Society, held at the TAFE Horticulture building. A magnificent display was there for all to admire, and included stunning cream, peach, bronze, deep orange and green throat clivias. The Toowoomba club members were warmly welcoming, and it was a pleasure to



meet Mr Ian Anderson, the proud owner of the well-known 'Anderson Peach' cultivar, as well as Mr Kevin Walters, a breeder of high quality *Clivia*, whose plants and breeding are highly regarded both at home and overseas. Kevin and Coral Larsen, and Lyn Althaus were also very hospitable, and went out of their way to make us and other visitors to the show feel welcome. Please accept apologies for those people who gave us such a warm welcome, but whose names have not been mentioned.



Some notable plants on display were several of the Anderson Peach offspring, including Anderson's 'Catherine Peach' and Anderson's 'Roslyn Peach', the beautiful 'Jordan's Apricot', 'Moonlight' X 'Green Walters' bred by Kevin Walters, and a beautiful green throat cream bred by Kevin Walters. There were some spectacular creams, one in particular with long 'eyelashes' and a lovely Ghost plant. There were many more stunning plants there, too numerous to mention by name, but the standard of plants was uniformly high, and they were all well presented for the show. In addition to the display, there was a large selection of plants and seeds for sale, and these



were eagerly purchased by many of the visitors present.



The next show visited was the annual display presented by Jeanne and Lionel Marten at the Wilsonton Shopping Centre. Jeanne Marten has run this show for many years, and in the past has donated all proceeds from the sale of her *Clivia* to the local hospice. This year, however, all proceeds are being directed to the Peacehaven Botanical Garden at Crow's Nest, just north of Toowoomba.

Jeanne and Lionel work very hard to present their show, which displays a stunning array of *Clivia* in deep orange, bronze, peach, and cream. The plants on display were bursting with health, and had huge flowerheads on long flower stalks, held well above the deep green foliage. Jeanne has been breeding *Clivia* for over 40 years, and the



results of her efforts are magnificent plants with big heads, in very rich colours. Jeanne is keen for these Australian bred plants to be recognised as being what they are - plants of a world class standard. Many of Jeanne's plants originated with seed from Schenkel in Germany, and a large number show the characteristic European look, with broad overlapping tepals and a tulip shaped flower, although she does breed huge recurved flower types as well. She is also a long-time breeder of various forms of interspecific *Clivia*, bred to try and provide clivias flowering throughout the year. Jeanne is very keen to help aspiring clivia growers, and is always ready with words of advice and encouragement on any subject or problem associated with the growing or care of *Clivia*. She has worked tirelessly to promote these plants that she loves.

The following day, en route back to Brisbane, a visit was paid to John and Gail Craigie, of Pine Mountain Nursery near Ipswich. John and Gail have been breeding *Clivia* and agapanthus for over 15 years, and each year harvest and grow approximately 40,000 *Clivia* seed crosses. They have collected seed and plants from many international breeders for their breeding program, and are striving to continually improve the species. John has an interest in growing the particolour *Clivia*, as well as improved forms of peach, high quality creams, and reds and bronzes.



They were wonderful, genial hosts, and were proud to show us their very comprehensive collection and nursery, which also has a large number of variegated plants on offer. John is a keen hybridiser who also writes regularly on breeding issues for *Clivia* publications.

Many of the Pine Mountain plants had finished flowering due to the unseasonal burst of hot weather experienced in Queensland in August, but there were still some lovely creams, peaches, and a gorgeous green throat bronze. John and Gail follow a strict fertilising and growing program that seems to be yielding very good results. Pine Mountain Nursery exports both *Clivia* and agapanthus overseas, as well as providing the domestic market with quality plants.



It was a very informative and delightful few days, and it was such a pleasure to finally meet the clivia fraternity of Queensland, many of whom were known to us, but we had not yet met. We were shown great hospitality which seems to be a characteristic of plant people in general, and *Clivia* people in particular.

*Photographs by Lisa Fox*



## Pests & Diseases – Rae Begg

Prevention is better than cure. If we recognise conditions favourable to pests and diseases, we can save ourselves from a lot of problems simply by removing those conditions.

### Hygiene

- Remove weeds & other host plants eg. milk thistles/aphids
- Control pests on nearby plants (and surrounding areas)
- Control ants,
  - they feed on the honeydew exuded by aphids and scale
  - they pick up the eggs and babies of aphids and other insects taking them underground over winter then bringing them out in spring to put them back on plants.

### Control moisture levels – stressed plants are more susceptible to fungal and insect attack

- well draining potting mix or well draining location in garden
- too wet adds risk of fungal diseases
- too dry causes water stress

### Good air circulation

- less fungal problems occur by reducing humidity

### Encourage beneficial insects, birds etc.

- try to keep a natural balance
- use environmentally friendly remedies & treatments when possible

The following chart is designed to be a helpful guide when pests or diseases need treatment. It is not meant to be the only treatments recommended. There are many products available on the market. Please read their labels carefully before buying.

Pest/Disease	Cause/Favourable Conditions	Appearance/Symptoms	Treatment
<b>Aphid</b>	Found in between leaves and on flower bud. Sucks sap.	Small delicate pear-shaped insects with soft bodies and long legs and antennae. Usually greenish or black, with or without transparent wings. Often attended by ants. Transmitters of viral diseases.	Pyrethrum based insecticide. Slay-Afe Confidor Ladybirds
<b>Caterpillars</b>	New growth, especially seedlings	Usually green loopy caterpillars. White nest can sometimes be found under the leaves joining two or more leaves together.	Remove by hand Spray with Dipel - wettable powder Derris Dust - also harmful to bees & spiders
<b>Fungus Gnat</b>	Very moist areas, decaying organic matter rotting animal manures or where fungus is growing.	Adult flies, 1/8" long, small greyish to black with long slender legs Larvae clear to creamy white 1/4" long, shiny black head. Larval stage damages healthy roots stunting or killing plants even when there is no fungus present Life cycle 2-4 weeks Damage may be more severe to young plants in sterilised potting media. (above 60°C, beneficial organisms also killed) Transmitters of fungal diseases.	Prevention strategy is best Potato slices to monitor presence of gnat larvae  Bacillus thuringiensis, israeliensis

<b>Leaf Miner</b>	Between the upper and lower leaf surfaces (epidermis)	Larvae chew tunnels through the inside of the leaf.	Prevent plants from becoming stressed or weakened by poor nutrition, other insect or mite attack, too much or too little water. Yellow sticky traps to catch egg-laying adults Confidor used as a soil drench Prune off damaged leaves
<b>Lily Borer</b>	Between the upper and lower leaf surfaces (epidermis)	Black caterpillar with yellow bands, tunnels into leaves, stalks and bulbs Usually damage is severe before pest is discovered.	Prune off damaged leaves Dipel Carbaryl
<b>Mealy Bug</b>	Found in sheltered parts especially down deep between leaves at the base of the plant and in the roots. Suck sap Prefer plants with high nitrogen content	Small ± 3mm long oval-shaped light-pink bodied stationary insect covered by waxy threads. Heavy excretion of honeydew can cause growth of mould. Often attended by ants. Transmitters of viral diseases.	It is a weak sucker and a systemic insecticide will not work as well as a contact insecticide. Methylated spirits on a cotton bud. Slay-Afe Confidor
<b>Red Spider Mites</b>	Yellowing and bronzing of leaves	Minute reddish-brown "spiders" with four pairs of legs of equal length and oval body. Weave a web on the underside of leaves. Eggs creamy white.	Predatory mites Sulphur Dust / Mancozeb Plus Ladybirds
<b>Scale</b>	Tiny insects shelter under the waxy cap where they suck sap	Waxy spots on both the upper and lower sides of leaves.	Avoid oil based products, they clog stomata (air breathing holes) in the leaves. Insecticidal soap Confidor
<b>Snails and Slugs</b>	moist dark areas between pots tiny snails hide between leaves	Uneven, scraping/ rasping action on underside of leaves	Prevention the best cure Clear away weeds, plant debris, timber & bricks Snail Bait Beer Traps "No more Snails" barrier spray Barriers - wood ash, lime, wormwood, egg shells
<b>Thrips</b>	hatch during warm wet weather attracted to water and the color white	Small flat insects about 1mm long. Rasping mouthparts puncture plant cells and they suck out the sap. Transmitters of viral diseases.	Confidor Derris Dust - also harmful to bees & spiders
<b>ERWINIA carotovora Bacterial soft rot</b>	enters through damaged surfaces	affected tissue becomes soft and watery turning slimy & smelly	Control disease vectors Dipel (one bacteria to control another)
<b>FUSARIUM PHYTOPHTERA PYTHIUM VERTICILLIUM RHIZOCOTONIA</b>	all these are soil borne fungi too wet, transmitted by water enters / affects roots	Root rot Leaves die back from tip of leaf. Damaged roots cause malnutrition in plant Plant looks as if it is too dry. Roots are rotten	Mancozeb, Banrot, Kocide may be beneficial but identification of fungus is necessary before use
<b>Rust</b>	air borne spores high air humidity, insufficient air circulation	Reddish-brown wart-like lesions on both upper and lower side of older leaves. This can also be caused by a nitrogen deficiency	Control disease vectors Mancozeb Zineb Rose Fungicide (Triforine)

Notes: Neem based products can be beneficial if used regularly. Neem is a repellent but it can interfere with the reproductive cycle of some insects.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING - 16 Oct 2009

### Venue

Uniting Church, Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Roads, Burwood

### Committee

Helen Marriott, Lisa Fox, Rae Begg, Diane Mathews, George Simmler, Brenda Girdlestone

### Apologies

Ross Beveridge, Pam Dryden, Brenda Girdlestone, Laurens Rijke, Ray Argent

- Meeting commenced at 7.35
- Introduction by Helen Marriott
- Previous meeting minutes accepted by Rae Begg, seconded by John Dettman.
- Helen thanked all volunteers from the ABC Expo
- Also thanked Erika Van der Spuy for conducting a gardening talk recently

### New Business

- The Christmas get-together was discussed and members were asked for their preferred date, time and venue. The majority were interested in a similar format to the Christmas 2008 get-together. The 20<sup>th</sup> November was identified as the most suitable date for most, to be held at the Uniting Church in Burwood. Members with surname's starting with A - M are required to bring sweets and members with surnames beginning with N - Z are asked to supply savouries.
- There will be a committee meeting shortly to plan a programme for 2010.
- The AGM will be held in the first half of 2010.

### Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance (Bank)	\$2,158.65
Income - Memberships/Raffle/TT	\$ 185.00
Expenses - Hall Hire/Expo	\$ 85.98
Balance	\$2,257.67 including petty cash

Treasurers Report accepted by Lyn Rawson and seconded by Di Mathews. All agreed.

Main presentation - Pests & Diseases by Rae Begg

- The raffle prize was a 'White Lips' donated by Terry Edwards. This was won by Yvonne Hargraves.
- Members introduced the plants they had brought along.
- Questions and answers.
- Meeting closed 9.15.

END